

## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

## MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: President's Call to the Amir of Kuwait

PARTICIPANTS: The President  
The Amir of Kuwait  
Notetaker: Sandra Charles, NSC

DATE, TIME February 14, 1991; 12:05 - 12:23 p.m. EST  
AND PLACE: The Oval Office

The President: Hello, how are you sir? (U)

The Amir: Hello, very well, thank you. (U)

The President: I am just calling to thank you for your kind words of support in your letter, and to congratulate you on the success of your pilots in the fight to liberate Kuwait. I also want to thank you for your pledge of financial support for our operations and that of the allies. (Ø)

I hope you agree that on the military front, things are going well. I am confident, totally confident, that our combined forces will get the job done. Especially following my talks with Cheney and Powell when they returned, I am confident it will not take long, and that it won't be a long drawn out war. I just wanted to share these thoughts with you. (S)

I also wanted you to know we are not interested in any compromise or any pause or a ceasefire but must maintain our steadfast position to convince Saddam Hussein that he must withdraw from Kuwait, from your country. (Ø)

Lastly, regarding the bombing of the bunker in Baghdad, I want you to know we are not targeting civilians. It looks like he is using his own civilians like he used foreign hostages and POWs as human shields. Frankly, he got a lot of propaganda yesterday as the press made it look like it was imperialists against Iraqi citizens, but I think we're starting to get this under control. Your Ambassador here yesterday raised the proper questions and did very well. Also, your military briefer in Riyadh today was first class. (Ø)

I just wanted to get back in touch with you and hear your comments about how things are going. (Ø)

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The Amir: Thank you, Mr. President, for your support and commitment. It is my wish that we continue to communicate all the time on these matters. I agree with what you said on the points you raised. Regarding the bunker and what Saddam Hussein said, we know him quite well and how he uses propoganda to try to create cracks in the coalition. This is what he is trying to do with all the emphasis on the bunker. Saddam Hussein knows that last week his troops killed over 200 Kuwaiti civilians. Most were 15-20 year old boys and girls. They were dragged out of their homes and they were just killed. They didn't commit any crimes, were given no trial. He also mutilated their bodies, young boys and girls. With the girls he cut off their breasts. These brutalities are unprecedented. Not only did these acts take place over the last six months, but they are happening now. Under no other conditions of occupation have I heard of such brutalities. It is insane and unprecedented. At the same time, he cries and pretends to be mourning the incident at the bunker. (Ø)

The President: I am very disturbed to hear that horrible story, but not surprised to hear what you are saying because he is so brutal. I just wish we could get that word out more and find some way to convey to your people our deep sorrow. The best we can do is win and win quickly to vindicate the terrible loss of lives. (Ø)

The Amir: I am pleased to hear your comments that the best thing is to win and win fast. This is very important and I am pleased to hear it. I believe Saddam Hussein wants to prolong this war because he doesn't care about the Iraqi people; he only cares about his survival. People talk about comparing him to Hitler. Cheney and Powell talked about this when they were here. When the comparison between him and Hitler comes up what I always say is there is a difference. Hitler believed the German people were superior to everybody else. Saddam Hussein does not believe the Iraqi people are superior. He does not believe in them; they are not important to him. He only believes in self aggrandizement. Hitler committed suicide when he was in a difficult situation. I believe Saddam Hussein lacks the courage to kill himself because he is too scared. He is in love with himself too much. (Ø)

The President: I see we are both determined, and first, I want to thank you, and secondly tell you that I am more determined now than ever. And third, to tell you it won't be long, it won't be long before we move against this man on the ground. (Ø)

The Amir: I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for the good conversation and your commitment. We stand together for the liberation of Kuwait and our strong steadfast cooperation. (Ø)

The President: My thanks to you and your people and good luck. We will do our part. (U)

The Amir: We too thank you and wish you success. (U)

-- End of Conversation --